



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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For Immediate Release

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(Photos attached below.)

**Excise Police Search Grocery Store,
Seize Alcohol, Tobacco, DVDs & Money**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (Jan. 3) – Indiana State Excise Police officers served a search warrant at an Indianapolis grocery store this afternoon looking for evidence of illegal sales of alcohol, tobacco and bootleg DVDs.

Around 1:30 p.m., excise police seized alcohol, tobacco, DVDs and money from India Plaza at 4225 Lafayette Road.

Officers found 347 bootleg DVDs; 66 bottles of beer, wine and liquor; 166 containers of tobacco products; and an undisclosed amount of U.S. Currency.

Today's search was the result of a five-month investigation by excise police into illegal alcohol, tobacco and DVD sales at the store. Undercover excise officers made several alcohol and DVD purchases during their investigation.

Charges may include fraud, corrupt business influence, maintaining a common nuisance, sale of alcohol without a permit and sale of tobacco without a tobacco certificate.

"Once again, a thorough investigation by excise officers halted an illegal alcohol operation, as well as the illegal sale of tobacco and pirated DVDs," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "Often the proceeds of such operations can be used to fund other illegal activities, and halting this type of criminal activity is a priority for our agency."

Excise police will continue to investigate complaints from the public concerning illegal alcohol and tobacco sales. Anyone with information on illegal alcohol and tobacco sales should contact the District 6 office at 317-541-4100.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. Excise officers enforce all state laws, but focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related violations.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.



Tobacco products seized by excise police at India Plaza, 4225 Lafayette Road, on Jan. 3.



Bootleg DVDs seized by excise police from India Plaza, 4225 Lafayette Road, on Jan. 3.



Alcoholic beverages seized by excise police at India Plaza, 4225 Lafayette Road, on Jan. 3.